AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-8. Cancel.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A slider ~~of claim 14 wherein the plurality of bottom surfaces comprises four bottom surfaces that are each positioned at different depths from one another~~, comprising:

inside and outside edges;

a bearing surface;

a cavity dam; and

an inside rail proximate the inside edge and forming a first portion of the bearing surface;

an outside rail proximate the outside edge and forming a second portion of the bearing surface; and

a sub-ambient pressure cavity comprising a cavity floor having first, second, third and fourth substantially flat bottom surfaces positioned at different depths from one another, and wherein the first, second and third bottom surfaces are situated substantially between the inside rail and the outside rail.

10. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A slider ~~of claim 46, wherein~~ comprising:

~~the sub ambient pressure cavity further comprises a longitudinal axis; and~~

a bearing surface,

a cavity dam; and

a sub-ambient pressure cavity, which comprises a longitudinal axis, a cavity floor, a plurality of sides and a depth that progressively varies between a point on one of the sides and a corresponding point on an opposing side, wherein the cavity floor comprises at

least four substantially flat bottom surfaces, and wherein two of said at least four bottom surfaces are positioned substantially on a first side of the longitudinal axis and two other of said at least four bottom surfaces are positioned substantially on a second side of the longitudinal axis.

11. (Currently amended) The slider of claim ~~46~~ 10, wherein:
the sub-ambient pressure cavity further comprises a transversal axis; and
two of said at least four bottom surfaces are positioned substantially on a first side of the transversal axis and two other of said at least four bottom surfaces are positioned substantially on a second side of the transversal axis.

12. (Currently Amended) A slider, comprising:
a slider body having a bearing surface, a cavity dam and a sub-ambient pressure cavity, the sub-ambient pressure cavity having a cavity floor, a plurality of sides and a depth that progressively varies between a point on one of the sides and a corresponding point on an opposing side; and wherein:
the cavity floor comprises a plurality of substantially flat bottom surfaces ~~separated by at least one elevational change~~;
the sub-ambient pressure cavity further comprises a longitudinal axis;
the plurality of bottom surfaces comprises a total of four bottom surfaces;
two of said four bottom surfaces are positioned substantially on a first side of the longitudinal axis and two of said four bottom surfaces are

positioned substantially on a second side of the longitudinal axis;

the sub-ambient pressure cavity further comprises a transversal axis;

two of said four bottom surfaces are positioned substantially on a first side of the transversal axis and two of said four bottom surfaces are positioned substantially on a second side of the transversal axis; and

each of the bottom surfaces are positioned at different depths from one another.

13. (Currently Amended) A slider, comprising:

a slider body having a bearing surface, a cavity dam and a sub-ambient pressure cavity, the sub-ambient pressure cavity having a cavity floor, a plurality of sides and a depth that progressively varies between a point on one of the sides and a corresponding point on an opposing side, wherein:

the cavity floor comprises a plurality of substantially flat bottom surfaces ~~separated by at least one elevational change~~;

the sub-ambient pressure cavity further comprises a longitudinal axis;

the plurality of bottom surfaces comprises a total of four bottom surfaces;

two of said four bottom surfaces are positioned substantially on a first side of the longitudinal axis and two of said four bottom surfaces are positioned substantially on a second side of the longitudinal axis;

the two bottom surfaces on the first side of the longitudinal axis are positioned at different depths from one another;

the two bottom surfaces on the second side of the longitudinal axis are positioned at different depths from one another;

the sub-ambient pressure cavity further comprises a transversal axis;

two of said four bottom surfaces are positioned substantially on a first side of the transversal axis and two of said four bottom surfaces are positioned substantially on a second side of the transversal axis;

the two bottom surfaces on the first side of the transversal axis are positioned at different depths from one another;

the two bottom surfaces on the second side of the transversal axis are positioned at different depths from one another; and

at least two of the four bottom surfaces have the same depth.

14-44. Cancel.

45. (Previously presented) A storage device, comprising:

a storage medium having a recording surface; and

means for carrying a transducer-bearing slider at a fly height relative to the recording surface, and for affecting a characteristic of sub-ambient pressure formed within a sub-ambient pressure cavity during operation of the storage medium by biasing a global center of suction away from the center of figure of the slider.

46. Cancel.

47. (New) The storage device of claim 45 wherein the means for affecting a characteristic of sub-ambient pressure comprises means for biasing a global center of suction toward a trailing edge of the slider.